

Amendments To Specification

Please amend the following paragraph that starts at the bottom of page 8 of the specification as follows:

The clock meta-data 160-162 provides information regarding the quality of the clock associated with the corresponding timing data packet 190-192 ~~160-162~~. For example, if the node 10 generates the timing data packet 190 then the clock meta-data 160 indicates the quality of the clock in the node 10. In one embodiment, the quality of a clock may be indicated by a stratum number. For example, a stratum equal to one may indicate a clock that provides time obtained from a GPS receiver or time obtained from an atomic clock whereas a stratum greater than one may indicate time obtained from a less precise source. Other clock meta-data may indicate clock statistics such as variance and/or quantization. The clock meta-data may include fields that enable a user to specify the local clock in a particular node as a preferred clock from which all time in the distributed system 200 is to be derived.